

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03554 191502Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8116

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF PINS SHUM

SUBJ: LETTER FROM WINNIE MANDELA TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: STATE 167339

1. BELIEVE A PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO WINNIE MANDELA'S THOUGHTFUL LETTER IS DESIRABLE, BUT IT IS PREFERABLE THAT IT BE DONE ORALLY ON THE PRESIDENT'S BEHALF RATHER THAN IN WRITING. NORMALLY I WOULD PREFER A WRITTEN RESPONSE, BUT AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE, WITH SAG SENSITIVITIES RUNNING SO HIGH AND THEIR COOPERATION ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA BEING SO IMPORTANT, I THINK IT IS PRUDENT NOT TO INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT WHICH COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER RECOMMENDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE THAT STEMPLE BE USED TO CONVEY AN ORAL REPLY.

2. IF IT IS DECIDED TO PROCEED AS WE SUGGEST, WE RECOMMEND A RESPONSE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT I SEE YOU AGAIN TO TELL YOU PERSONALLY HOW PLEASED HE WAS TO RECEIVE YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTER. HE DEEPLY APPRECIATES YOUR FRANKNESS AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITATIONS WE FACE IN ATTEMPTING TO EXERT A CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO ASSURE YOU OF THE FIRM DEDICATION OF HIS ADMINISTRATION TO ENCOURAGING
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RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE FOR ALL ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. IT IS A CORNERSTONE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY, DEEPLY ROOTED IN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND VALUES. HE ALSO WANTS YOU TO KNOW OF HIS DETERMINATION NOT TO BE DISSUADED BY THE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN CARRYING THIS POLICY FORWARD. FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT I EXPRESS TO YOU HIS GRATITUDE FOR YOUR

ENCOURAGEMENT AND GOODWILL AND HIS HEART-FELT HOPE FOR THE
EARLY REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND PROSPERITY
FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS."

3. MRS. MANDELA WILL PRESUMABLY ASK ABOUT HER "SPECIAL
REQUEST" FOR HELP IN SECURING RELEASE OF THE POLITICAL
PRISONERS ON ROBBER ISLAND. WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING
REPLY: "WE ARE NOT PRESENTLY IN A POSITION TO EFFECT
THEIR RELEASE. WE WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS
TO PERSUADE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES OF THE WISDOM OF
AVOIDING THE CRISIS YOU MENTIONED BY ELIMINATING
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND ALLOWING FULL PARTICIPATION
BY ALL ITS CITIZENS ON AN EQUAL BASIS IN THE POLITICAL
LIFE OF SOUTH AFRICA."
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770268-0609
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From: PRETORIA
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Subject: LETTER FROM WINNIE MANDELA TO PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PPDC, SF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (MANDELA, WINNIE)
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